

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently active.

Antecedent support for the limitation of "stripes" is found on page 10, line 21; and the limitation "corresponding," antecedent support is found in Claim 16.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they failed to show the "method for switching". This objection is respectfully traversed by the applicants. As the Examiner has stated in paragraph 1 of page 2 "any structural detail that is essential . . . should be shown in the drawing". Applicants have shown every structural detail in the figures. Method claims do not require any figures because they are not identify structural details. Accordingly, applicants submit that the drawings are proper and no correction is needed. Please note that substitute figures are being submitted with this amendment.

The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to remove any sentence fragments.

The Examiner has rejected to Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claim 20 has been amended to obviate this rejection.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 as being unpatentable over Cisneros in view of Gaddis. In view of the amendments to the claims, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 now has the limitation that "the port card sending stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet to the fabrics". The applied art of record does not teach or suggest anything in regard to striping, or striping of corresponding fragments, let alone sending stripes of corresponding fragments of each packet to the fabrics, as found in Claim 1. At best, the applied art of record shows sending a packet to a single fabric, but nothing at all about stripes of corresponding fragments to more than one fabric. Accordingly, Claims 1-3 are patentable over Cisneros in view of Gaddis.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 4-6 as being unpatentable over Cisneros and Gaddis and Joffe. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The applied art of record does not teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 4-6 are dependent to parent Claim 1 and are patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7-15 as being unpatentable over Cisneros in view Gaddis. As explained above in regard to Claim 1, Cisneros in view of Gaddis does not teach or suggest Claim 1, as amended. Claim 7 is patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is

patentable over the applied art of record. Claims 8-15 are patentable for the reasons Claim 7 is patentable.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 16 as being unpatentable over Cisneros and Gaddis and Jones. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Cisneros and Gaddis and Jones do not teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1 or Claim 7. Claim 16 is dependent to parent Claim 7 and is patentable for the reasons Claim 7 is patentable.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 17-21 as being unpatentable over Cisneros, Gaddis and Jones and Joffe. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 17-21 are dependent to parent Claim 7 and are patentable for the reasons Claim 7 is patentable over the applied art of record.

A substitute clean specification and marked up original specification are enclosed. The marked original specification has deletions bracketed and additions underlined. No new matter has been added. The information deleted is unnecessary for enablement and is considered superfluous information that applicant desires not to have published.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1-21, now in this application be allowed.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 2/10/04
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Respectfully submitted,

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